

Proclamation 7886—Small Business Week, 2005

April 14, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's economy is the most prosperous in the world, and the small business sector is one of its great strengths. During Small Business Week, we honor small business owners and workers, and we reaffirm our commitment to keeping America the best place in the world to do business.

Our economy is strong and growing stronger. More Americans are working today than ever before. The unemployment rate is lower than the average rate of the 1970's, 1980's, and 1990's. Homeownership is at a record high. Family incomes are rising. Small businesses are at the heart of this growth, creating most new private-sector jobs in our economy and helping our citizens succeed.

My Administration is committed to keeping small businesses vibrant and strong. We provided tax relief and streamlined tax reporting requirements for small businesses. We are working to reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation and excessive litigation. We are working to make health care more available and affordable. We are opening up markets for U.S. products through free trade agreements and by enforcing existing trade laws. And we have promoted a culture of ownership so that more people can own their own homes and start their own businesses.

As small business owners and employees add to the vitality of our economy, they also inspire others to realize the full promise of our Nation. I join all Americans in celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit and hard work of our small business owners and employees.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 24 through April 30, 2005, as Small Business Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate cere-

monies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and their employees and encourage and foster the development of new small businesses.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 18.

Memorandum on Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

April 14, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-22

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority and conditions contained in section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108-447, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204.

This waiver shall be effective for a period of 6 months from the date hereof. You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

**Remarks in a Discussion on
Strengthening Social Security in
Kirtland, Ohio**

April 15, 2005

The President. Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. I appreciate you coming, Steve, thanks. Glad to give you a ride home on Air Force One. [Laughter] I really do like working with Steve. He's a thoughtful fellow who cares about issues, and this is—what we're here to talk about is an important issue, which is Social Security.

Before I do, I want to thank the community college for hosting us. I'm a big believer in community colleges. Community colleges have got the capacity to change curriculum to meet the needs of a local workforce, for example. And one of the real challenges of the 21st century is to make sure people have got the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century. And a fabulous place to find those skills is our community colleges.

So thanks for what you do. Thanks for being a host. Thanks for letting us come and have a—what I think you'll find to be a really interesting educational experience about a vital issue confronting the country.

I want to thank Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson for joining us today. I appreciate State Treasurer Jennette Bradley for joining us today.

I want to thank the mayor, Ed Podojil, who is here. I appreciate you, Mr. Mayor. And I want to thank Dave Anderson. The last time I saw Dave, I said to Dave, I said, "Dave, fill the potholes." [Laughter] That's just a piece of advice. [Laughter] And so I saw him in line coming in. He said, "I'm just here to report for duty, Mr. President. I did fill the potholes." [Laughter] You'd get reelected if you want to run again. [Laughter]

Anyway, I want to thank Anita Isom, who's with us. Anita is a young lady I met when we landed there at the airport in Cleveland. She is a volunteer, and she has helped and been awarded because of her reading-related activities that benefit others. The reason I like to mention a soul like Anita is that, no matter what your age, no matter where you live, you can help this country by becoming a volunteer, by helping somebody who hurts, by teaching somebody to read, or feed some-

body who's hungry, or put your arm around somebody who needs love.

I like to remind people that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens and the great compassion of our people. And so if you're interested in serving America, do so by becoming a volunteer in the community in which you live and help change this country one heart and one soul at a time.

So, Anita, thanks for coming. Thanks for meeting me at the airport.

Let me talk about Social Security. I could be talking about a lot of things, peace and freedom. The world is changing right now because societies are becoming more free. And as societies become more free, more democratic, the world will become more peaceful.

Today I went to a little restaurant, and the owner happens to be Lebanese American. And he said, "Thank you, Mr. President, for staying focused on a country like Lebanon and insisting that Lebanon be allowed to have free elections." And I assured him, like I'll assure you, that when America speaks, we mean what we say. When we say "free elections" to the Syrians, we mean free elections. Get out of Lebanon, and let this good country have a free election as scheduled. When I say, "Get out of Lebanon," I mean out of Lebanon with all your troops and all your security services and all the people trying to influence that Government. It is in the world's interest that Lebanon be allowed to have free elections because a free society will help spread the peace.

We're dealing with a lot of issues, and in Washington, DC, I've submitted a tough budget and expect the Congress to be wise about how they spend your money. I also know that Congress needs to stop debating and get an energy bill to my desk now, during this session.

Congress also needs to take serious this issue about Social Security. People say, "Why did you bring it up?" I said, "I brought it up because I see a serious problem that needs to be fixed now, before it's too late. I also brought it up because the job of a President is to confront problems and not pass them on." The easy route in politics is to say, "Well, we got us a problem. We'll